

**The University of Melbourne
School of Historical Studies**

**131-434
Reading Course**

Description

A study of theoretical or historiographical issues broadly related to the thesis topic and conducted through extensive reading decided by the student in conjunction with the supervisor. The subject will enhance the student's powers of independent inquiry, will encourage initiative in self-directed research, and will strengthen the student's capabilities in theoretical analysis and argument.

Credit points: 12.5

Contact: Regular consultations with supervisor

Note

Enrolment in the Reading Course should normally be in the first semester of the honours year. It is not available to student writing a thesis in another discipline.

Topic, Reading, Supervision

- The precise focus of and reading list for the course should be agreed on by student and supervisor in consultation with each other.
- The topic must be clearly distinguished from that of the thesis and of any other course that the student is studying or has completed. Although it is expected that the Reading Course will enhance the thesis, providing a wider contextual study for the thesis topic, care must be taken to avoid duplicating thesis work in either the Reading Course itself, or the essay by which it is assessed.
- The volume of reading should be commensurate with that for a class-based fourth year subject.
- Reading Course students should expect to be meeting with the supervisors at least once every fortnight.

Assessment

- Assessment for the Reading Course will consist of one essay of five thousand words.
- In preparing the essay for presentation, use double-spacing, generous margins, and one side of the paper only.
- The essay should be fully referenced with footnotes (not endnotes) and a bibliography.
- Two copies of the essay must be submitted to the School office.